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Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2007

General Assembly

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Supplement No. 42 (A/62/42)

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Note

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I. Introduction

1. On 6 December 2006, the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/98, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", which reads as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004 and 60/91 of 8 December 2005,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the validity of its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998, concerning the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission;

3. *Decides* to adopt the following additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the Disarmament Commission's methods of work:

(a) The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies should be elected at an organizational session of the Commission, if possible at least three months before the beginning of the substantive session; the regional groups should, accordingly, present their candidates as soon as possible to ensure that such elections take place within that time frame;

(b) Member States are encouraged to adopt the draft agenda of the substantive session of the Commission as early as possible at the organizational meetings of the Commission;

(c) Member States are encouraged to present their national working documents to the Commission as early as possible before the beginning of the substantive session to facilitate deliberation in the meetings ahead;

(d) The Commission should make efforts to strengthen dialogue with other bodies of the disarmament machinery of the United Nations, that is, the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament;

(e) The Commission is encouraged to invite, as appropriate, experts on disarmament, including those at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, for discussions at its plenary meetings;

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/61/42).

(f) The Secretariat is requested to improve the Commission section of the United Nations website to provide better communication and up-to-date information about the work of the Commission, and in particular to make available in a timely manner the information and documentation relevant to the Commission's deliberations;

4. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

5. *Also reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation between the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[3]

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission continue the consideration of the following items at its 2007 substantive session:

(a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2007, namely from 9 to 27 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[4] together with all the official records of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

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[2] Resolution S-10/2.

[3] A/CN.10/137.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/61/27).

2. The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2007 at United Nations Headquarters at its 276th plenary meeting, on 6 December 2006 (see A/CN.10/PV.276). At that meeting, the Commission:

(a) Considered questions related to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its 2007 substantive session in accordance with the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" (A/CN.10/137) and in the light of General Assembly resolution 61/98;

(b) Took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotation of the chairmanship among the geographic regions;

(c) Considered the provisional agenda for the 2007 substantive session and decided to establish a committee of the whole and two working groups to deal with two substantive items on the agenda.

II. Organization and work of the 2007 substantive session

3. The Commission held its 2007 substantive session at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 27 April 2007. The Commission held six plenary meetings (277th to 282nd; see A/CN.10/PV.277-282) chaired by Elbio Rosselli (Uruguay). Timur Alasaniya, Senior Political Affairs Officer of the Disarmament and Decolonization Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the United Nations Secretariat, served as Secretary of the Commission; and Ioan Tudor, Senior Political Affairs Officer, Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, represented the substantive secretariat.

4. During the 2007 substantive session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chairman:
Elbio Rosselli (Uruguay)

Vice-Chairmen:
Representatives of the following States: Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria, Peru, Poland and Switzerland

Rapporteur:
Bassam Darwish (Syrian Arab Republic)

5. At its 276th plenary meeting, on 6 December 2006, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document A/CN.10/L.59, which read as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

5. Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons.

6. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

7. Other business.

6. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its provisional programme of work for the session (A/CN.10/2007/CRP.1) and decided to allocate four meetings to a general exchange of views.

7. On 9 and 10 April 2007, the Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (see A/CN.10/PV.277-280). The representatives of the following countries or entities made statements during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Andorra, Australia, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Dominican Republic (on behalf of the Rio Group), Germany (on behalf of the European Union), India, Indonesia (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the Sudan (on behalf of the African Group of States), Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Viet Nam, Yemen and the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union.

8. At its 277th plenary meeting, on 9 April 2007, the Commission heard the statement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon.

9. In accordance with its decision at its organizational session, the Commission allocated agenda item 4, "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons", to Working Group I, which was chaired by Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou (Benin) and held two informal consultations, on 20 February and 19 March, and 11 formal meetings, from 11 to 25 April 2007.

10. The Commission allocated agenda item 5, "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons", to Working Group II, which was chaired by Carlos Duarte (Brazil) and held 11 meetings, from 11 to 25 April 2007.

11. In accordance with past practice, some non-governmental organizations attended the plenary meetings of the Commission.

III. Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

12. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 61/98, the Secretary-General, by a note dated 9 February 2007 (A/CN.10/204), transmitted to the Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, together with all the official records of the sixty-first session of the Assembly relating to disarmament matters.

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

13. In the course of the 2007 substantive session of the Commission, the following documents dealing with substantive questions were submitted:

(a) Working paper submitted by India (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/WP.1);

(b) Working paper submitted by Pakistan (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/WP.2);

(c) Working paper submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/WP.3);

(d) Working paper submitted by the Chairman (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/WP.4);

(e) Conference room paper submitted by the Republic of Korea (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/CRP.1);

(f) Draft report of Working Group I on agenda item 4 (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/CRP.2 and Rev.1 and Rev.2);

(g) Conference room paper submitted by the Chairman (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/CRP.3);

(h) Conference room paper submitted by the United States (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/CRP.4);

(i) Three conference room papers submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II (A/CN.10/2007/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.3-5).

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

14. At its 282nd plenary meeting, on 27 April, the Commission adopted by consensus the reports of its subsidiary bodies and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein regarding agenda items 4 and 5. The Commission agreed to transmit to the General Assembly the adopted reports of Working Group I (see para. 16 below) and Working Group II (see para. 17 below).

15. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted its draft report for submission to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

16. The report of Working Group I reads as follows:

Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

1. At its organizational session held at its 276th plenary meeting, on 6 December 2006, the Disarmament Commission adopted the agenda for its 2007 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.59) and decided to allocate agenda item 4, "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons", to Working Group I.

2. Working Group I, chaired by Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou (Benin), held two informal consultations, on 20 February and 19 March 2007, and 11 formal meetings, from 11 to 25 April 2007. The Chairman also conducted a number of informal consultations. Sergei Cherniavsky of the Disarmament and Decolonization Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and

Conference Management, served as Secretary of Working Group I. Curtis Raynold and Kristin Jenssen of the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as advisers to Working Group I.

3. In connection with its work, Working Group I had before it the following documents:

(a) Working paper submitted by India (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/WP.1);

(b) Working paper submitted by Pakistan (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/WP.2);

(c) Working paper submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/WP.3);

(d) Working paper submitted by the Chairman (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/WP.4);

(e) Conference room paper submitted by the Republic of Korea (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/CRP.1);

(f) Draft report of Working Group I on agenda item 4 (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/CRP.2 and Rev.1 and Rev.2);

(g) Conference room paper submitted by the Chairman (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/CRP.3);

(h) Conference room paper submitted by the United States (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/CRP.4).

4. At its 1st meeting, on 11 April, the Chairman introduced a non-paper on issues related to item 4.

5. At the subsequent 6 meetings, from 11 to 18 April, the delegations discussed and commented on the non-paper by the Chairman and other papers submitted by delegations.

6. At the 7th meeting, on 19 April, the Chairman introduced a conference room paper (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/CRP.3), which took into consideration written and oral submissions, and was commented on by delegations.

7. At the 8th meeting, on 20 April, the Chairman submitted a working paper containing draft general principles and recommendations (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/WP.4), which was commented on by delegations.

8. At the 9th and 10th meetings of Working Group I, on 23 and 24 April, preliminary discussions took place on specific elements contained in the different papers submitted by the Chairman, as well as other papers submitted by delegations and groups of delegations.

9. The Chairman's papers are presented without prejudice to the positions of any delegation or group of delegations. They are his sole responsibility and represent neither a negotiated position nor command consensus.

10. A number of delegations expressed reservations on some of the issues contained in the Chairman's papers and the methodology of work followed.

11. At its 11th meeting, on 25 April, Working Group I considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 4. It also decided to transmit the documents listed in paragraph 3 of its report, as well as future papers that might be submitted by delegations, to the 2008 substantive session of the Commission.

12. It is the Chairman's view that his working paper (A/CN.10/2007/WG.I/WP.4) will be a basis for further deliberations for the formulation of consent recommendations at the conclusion of the Commission's three-year examination of agenda item 4 at its substantive session in 2008.

17. The report of Working Group II reads as follows:

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

1. At its organizational session held at its 276th plenary meeting, on 6 December 2006, the Disarmament Commission adopted the agenda for its 2007 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.59), and decided to allocate agenda item 5, "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons" to Working Group II.

2. Working Group II, chaired by Carlos Duarte (Brazil), assisted, with the consent of the Group, by Jandyr Santos of the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations, held 11 meetings, from 11 to 25 April. Christa Giles, of the Disarmament and Decolonization Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as Secretary of Working Group II; and Pamela Maponga of the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as Adviser to Working Group II.

3. At the first meeting, on 11 April, the Chairman circulated a revised conference room paper (A/CN.10/2006/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.3), which had been prepared at the end of the 2006 substantive session of the Commission and reflected comments and proposals made by delegations during the last two meetings of Working Group II in 2006. The Chairman's paper was based on the text of the previous Chairman's consolidated working paper (Rev.4), which was attached to the report of the Commission for 2003 (A/58/42).

4. At the same meeting, on 11 April, the Working Group held a general exchange of views on the subject. Working Group II agreed to take up the Chairman's conference room paper (A/CN.10/2006/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.3) as a basis for discussion.

5. Beginning at its 2nd meeting, on 12 April, Working Group II engaged in substantive discussions and consultations on the Chairman's conference room paper, during which written and oral proposals were made by delegations.

6. At its 9th meeting, on 23 April, the Chairman submitted a revised conference room paper (A/CN.10/2007/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.4).

7. At its 11th meeting, on 25 April, the Working Group considered the Chairman's further revised conference room paper (A/CN.10/2007/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.5), entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons", during which some delegations expressed their views on the structure and content of the

document. It decided to consider this paper as a basis for its work at the next session of the Disarmament Commission in 2008.

8. At the same meeting Working Group II considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5.

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